

giving promise of being 'good boys' for the future, henceforth resolved to keep clean scrubbed, and in slightly condition, their olfactory drains and slabby surfaces. And we doubt not that the new Health of Towns Commission, with a Chadwick as its keen-accented ferretting organ, has already, even though with a less-urgent cleaner at its other extremity, begun to exercise a salutary, and indeed we may say, in more than one sense, a sanative influence, over these metropolitan 'heads' in particular.*

The mass of matter on the sanative movement, metropolitan and provincial, gleaned from the newspaper press and now before us, may well demand the advent of the 'Journal of Health,' proposed to be established by the Health of Towns Association; for our present limits would be barely sufficient for even an index to the whole mass, far less for the briefest abridgment. We must at least retain some record of its more prominent features, however,—and first, of what is going on in the metropolitan districts.

At Guildhall, in the city, the commissioners of sewers have been bringing up the owners of cesspools and other nuisances, who have been compelled forthwith to abate them, and to properly drain their premises. Mr. Alderman Johnson has declared "the intention of the court of aldermen to make a peremptory order in every case of the kind that is brought before them." Two inspectors of pavements caught fevers from merely inspecting these death-pots, near Aldgate. The owner of some houses in Swan-lane, Thames-street, on being called on to open a communication between a privy and the sewers, set forth that in one case this had been done, but that the result was, "that at high-water the Thames flowed up the sewers through the privy and into the cellar, where it stood three feet deep. The commissioners themselves therefore were to blame, in not placing traps at the mouths of the sewers. At Windsor-street, Bishopsgate, a communication between a cesspool and a sewer had been stupidly opened at a point seven feet above the bottom of the pool, and a new opening at the level of the latter was ordered promptly to be made. The majority of the 'governors and directors of the united parishes of St. George the Martyr and St. Andrew's, Holborn,' have voted, by 'one,' admission to rate-payers at their meetings, but still loving the darkness at least, if not the dirt, they split, fourteen to fourteen, on the question of admission to the public press, and the chairman cast his second vote after his first into the anti-sanitary cesspool. The sanitary committee of the Marylebone districts were lately to be summoned forthwith, to investigate and remedy "the gross and grievous evils existing in the parish;" and Mr. Joseph wroted the vestry, that if nothing shall have been done at the opening of Parliament for the 'health and comfort' of the public, this would undoubtedly be held "a good and valid ground for taking from them that power which hitherto they had enjoyed." A memorial signed by 300 of the rate-payers of All Souls' district, Marylebone, has been presented to the vestry, recommending the condition of the district to their notice—its dense and poor population [by the way, the authorities here are at present helpless, being nearly 5,000*l.* in debt from pauper-drainage on their funds]—defective drainage and ventilation, and high rate of mortality—and impressing on them a sense of the benefit derivable from the speedy establishment of the proposed baths and wash-houses. Their spokesman, Mr. Edwards, hinted that "unless the local authorities were prepared to do what the Government proposed to do, the rate-payers would prefer general to local government;" as they are at present rather in a fix with a heavy debt upon their heads, at a time when it is late enough to redeem themselves even with no want of the useful. The memorial was held to be a complete reply to Sir P. Laurie and others, who had proved reticent under the proposed washing and scrubbing process, and had declared the rate-payers themselves to be adverse to it. A

motion was then put and carried, *nem. con.* that the bath and wash-house commissioners be requested to take steps to meet the wishes of the memorialists, and since then the commissioners have reported, that the Government is willing to take part of the Yorkshire Stingo site at 2,000*l.*, leaving two-thirds of it for the baths at 3,000*l.*, the loan of which from the Consolidated Fund they accordingly recommend. At St. George the Martyr's, a special meeting of the board of guardians have unanimously passed "various resolutions for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the parish," in districts of which so pestilential is the atmosphere, and so "pregnant with disease and mortality," that even medical students, who are usually rather reckless of their own safety, have generally objected to attend to the cases of fever which there so malignantly prevail in the midst of "excrement and decaying vegetable refuse matter," &c. &c.

A report on the Elm chapel cellar nuisance having been made to the Commissioners of City Sewers by Mr. Haywood, the surveyor, recommending that the whole be built up and all its abominations buried within it after every crevice has been rendered airtight, and what requires it covered over with a solid body of concrete 2 in 3 feet thick, so as "effectually to prevent the formation or permeation of noxious gases, and also render easy of detection any future attempt to bury there again, and thus aid in the good of abolishing intra-mural interments,"—the magistrates determined on the immediate abatement of this nuisance, and accordingly authorized the employment of workmen, who have since been 'laying concrete over the ground, breaking the roof, and stopping up all holes,' in order to accomplish the end in view.

Complaints, too, are ever and anon issuing forth from the doomed inhabitants of infected districts, still drawing public attention to various other 'most infamous nuisances,'—such as that of a ditch near Blackfriars-road, where 'the filth from all the cesspools and drains in a very crowded neighbourhood' is received, and 'much disease and a continual stench' kept up thereby,—and that of a 'pest depot at St. Mary's, Newington, one of its 'most frightful nuisances,' described as "a filthy, fetid, poisonous ditch, reeking with deadly effluvia, and surrounded by thousands of poor inhabitants," in Nursery-row,—another "filthy open ditch alongside the Archbishop of Canterbury's park wall," at Lambeth, "the stench from which is very offensive, and the sight of it very disgusting," a nuisance which "blocks up the sewers from the houses, the cellars of some of which "stand four feet deep of stinking water." Nay, the precincts of the royal residence itself are still described as "totally without sewerage, the whole of the waste water passing into cesspools, whence when putrid it is pumped into open gutters, diffusing miasma around it as it passes through the streets." Here, also, "from the number of cesspools, the ground has become completely imbued with this pestilential matter, and thus are the noxious gases being perpetually evolved." Disease is constantly prevalent on the spot, and as the saturation goes on, "should the disease assume a more virulent character, the inhabitants of Buckingham Palace would, from their proximity, stand in the most imminent danger." Again, a fair example and type of the general state of the great metropolitan 'Babylon, which stands on many' cesspools, exists "under the walls of Hedlam itself, where the filth of various kinds, which must proceed from so large an establishment, is allowed to flow without the least covering, contaminating the neighbourhood by producing fever, and disgusting the inhabitants by its offensive exhalations," while, in another ditch, a stagnant one, "rubbish of every kind is thrown in by the poor, the odour of which I should think could be smelt for 200 or 300 yards from the spot." And besides all this, in the same locality, sashes and rubbish accumulate in the very houses, "eight weeks having elapsed without one of the dust contractors' carts coming round to collect the refuse"—a fact which reminds us of a merited rebuke, some time since administered by the Scottish journalist Chambers.—"When it is so," says he, "that 1,800,000 persons choose to huddle themselves into a space of about five miles in mean diameter, instead of being spread over several counties, it becomes necessary to use very active and

energetic measures to keep them sweet. Such a place naturally inclines to be (pardon as far as fairly plain language) one vast dunghill." Nevertheless, "the plan of cleansing followed in London is so grossly absurd, that people in well-managed country-towns will probably feel a difficulty in crediting its existence. The contractors are at no pains to clean out bye-courts and lanes, because the trouble is not compensated by the value of the refuse there to be collected. They sweep once or twice a week, as best suits their own convenience or views of profit. The want of a general and uniform government of such matters in the metropolis is most deplorable. Accustomed to live amidst the impurities in question, the Londoners have become used to the evil, inasmuch as to be scarcely sensible of it. They would, therefore, if left in themselves, feel little wish for reform. It is a case exactly like that of the Scotch under the censure of Dr. Johnson, or the Americans under the sarcasms of Mrs. Trollope. The Londoners need to be awakened in a sense of the nastiness in which they live. We can assure them in the most solemn manner, that they are excessively dirty. Are they convinced?—then some good may be expected. If not, we must plainly tell them that the filth which they are unconsciously living amongst yearly chokes its thousands, and will continue to do so as long as it remains undiminished."

Now, however, that our own ever-green and racy satirist of absurdity and folly, and lover of fun and frolic, *Punch* assures us that the very "announcement of a commission to report on the sanitary state of the metropolis has caused the greatest commotion among the stinks, sewers, filth, fevers, drains, dust-holes, and depots, from Whapping to Westminster," and that the three plagues, typhus, cholera, and scarlatina, are 'laying their heads together' in a secret confabulation, which we would readily report were it not that 'all the world' already knows the secret to relate to their fell design to 'make the most of the time that is left them,'—we have every hope of these devils ere long having their due, and of the state of our great metropolis being no longer a by-word and a reproach in the mouth of one who dwells in a city once, if not now, itself notorious, as the writer can attest, for the vilest compound of villanous smells within the limits of those 'most abominable of all chemical substances' the sulphuretted and phosphuretted hydrogens, *et hoc genus omne*.

MEZZOTINTO ENGRAVINGS BY MR. G. R. WARD.—Mr. Ward has recently engraved two portraits after Mr. F. Toros, A.R.A., namely, the Marquis of Granby, and Mr. Duff, the member for Banff. The painter has been fortunate both in his subjects and engraver. The first portrait is simply a half length, the second a full length with some scenery, but both have exceedingly good heads, and Mr. Ward has rendered them in black and white with ability and great success.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.—The plans in competition for the proposed pauper asylum for Middlesex, were sent in on Friday in last week. A lunatic asylum for the counties of Monmouth, Hereford, Brecon, and Radnor, is to be erected in the neighbourhood of Abercromby. The sum put down for it is 20,000*l.* The foundation-stone of the Birmingham Lunatic Asylum was laid last week.

THE NEW SYNAGOGUE AT CANTERBURY. In reply to our comment last week, we have a note from the secretary of the building committee of the Hebrew congregation, Canterbury (Mr. J. Jacobs), stating that the style of the new synagogue is the Egyptian; that Mr. Hezekiah Marshall, of Canterbury, is the architect, and Mr. Cozens the contractor.

ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION. — This evening (Friday), the first conversation of the new association will be held, as mentioned last week, at Lyons-Inn Hall, Strand. We hope to find that a large number of our younger readers will avail themselves of the advantages which the society offers. Several of the elder members of the profession are expected to attend and give their countenance to the meeting.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—It is generally understood now that a new building will be obtained for the national collection as soon as possible.

* The constitution of the commission is in sight to start with, the whole, to be the first duty of the commission, which is to be a multifarious and important one. All the sanitary commissions have to be investigated, all the water supplies, all the sewage boards, all the separate trusts for lighting and draining the metropolis, and all the various relations in which these trusts, boards, companies, and committees stand to the ruling authorities of parishes, wards, liberties, counties, and manors. The surveyor is considered to have at all events this great a play that they are in earnest in the cause of metropolitan sanitary reform. A suspension of the commissions which expire in December, pending the inquiry and their results, is advocated by the *Speaker*.